

LAPPOEHN-3  
10/646,915

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract. A substitute abstract is enclosed.

The Examiner has objected to the specification. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the specification does not have to be amended.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. The drawings have been amended to overcome this rejection. In particular, FIG. 4 has been amended to show the clip coupling the plug-in connector to a back plane. Formal drawings for FIGS. 1-5 are enclosed which should overcome the Examiner's rejection of the drawings.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by German Patent No. DE3703423 C2.

The Appicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that the reference cited does not disclose a lens system as described in claim 1 as follows:

*a lens system disposed adjacent to said mirror and coupled to said transmitting means, for coupling the light beams into the plug in connector*

It is respectfully submitted that there are no lenses or anything similar to lenses disposed between light sources 10 and a light transmitting means 6 or 13.

This is because the reference cited by the Examiner is only used to indicate whether a particular electrical circuit is working and is not used to transmit data optically via optical signals. Therefore, with the design of the cited reference it would not need lenses to simply transmit a simple light that was only used for optical indication of whether an electrical circuit was working.

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Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable over the above cited reference.

New claim 12 has also been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-9 and 11 and 12 remain in the application. Claim 10 has been canceled without prejudice.


Because the applicant believes that claims 1-9 and 11 are patentable over the above cited reference, early allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): 2 Month Extension of Time; Drawings; Abstract

CERTIFICATE OF Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by first class mail the U.S.P.T.O. Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 2, 2005.

  
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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 4.  
In addition formal drawings for FIGS. 1-5 are also being  
submitted.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets